



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Office of Health Services
Medical Care Programs

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary***MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM****Hospice Care Transmittal No. 11****October 23, 2015**

TO: Hospice Providers

FROM: *Susan J. Tucker*
Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

RE: Hospice Rates for October 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

NOTE: **Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal**

Attached are Maryland Medicaid's hospice rates for Federal Fiscal Year 2016 (FFY 2016) effective October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for routine home, continuous home, respite inpatient, and general inpatient care. For FFY 2016, Medicaid rates are calculated based on the annual hospice rates established under Medicare and on the wage index issued in the August 6, 2015 *Federal Register* (volume 80, number 151).

Please note that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have made the following change to the methodology for hospice reimbursement.

The FFY 2016 hospice wage index incorporates revisions that the federal Office of Management and Budget made to the delineation of Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Combined Statistical Areas. As a result, some Maryland counties are now counted under different Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs) than in previous fiscal years. Specifically, Worcester and St. Mary's Counties are no longer part of the Maryland Rural Area (Region 8). Worcester County is now part of the Salisbury Area (Region 3) and St. Mary's County is part of the newly formed California-Lexington Park Area (new Region 9). This means hospices serving patients in Worcester County should bill using the Region 3 rates and hospices serving patients in St. Mary's County should bill using the Region 9 rates. More information regarding billing for services will be provided in a subsequent transmittal for the period beginning January 1, 2016.

Please note that the rates listed in Table 1 apply to providers that have complied with the quality data submission requirements under Section 3004 of the Affordable Care Act. The rates in Table 2 apply to providers that have not complied with these requirements, and

reflect a two percent reduction in the market basket update as required by Section 1814(i)(5)(A)(i) of the Act.

Please also note the hospice cap runs from November 1st of each year ending October 31st of the following year. The latest hospice cap amount for the year ending October 31, 2015, is \$27,382.63. Information regarding the FFY 2016 hospice wage index and the cap amount may be found on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-payment/Hospice/index.html>.

If you have questions concerning Maryland Medicaid hospice rates, please contact Ms. Leslie Jackson, Hospice Coordinator at (410) 767-1714 or by email at leslie.jackson@maryland.gov.

Attachments

cc: Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland